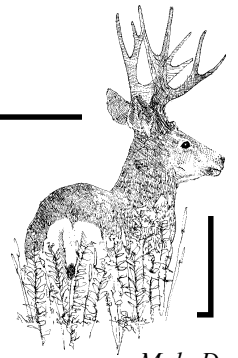


Bighorn Sheep



Nature's Call

An Activity Newsletter for Kids by Utah's Project WILD--Fall 1997

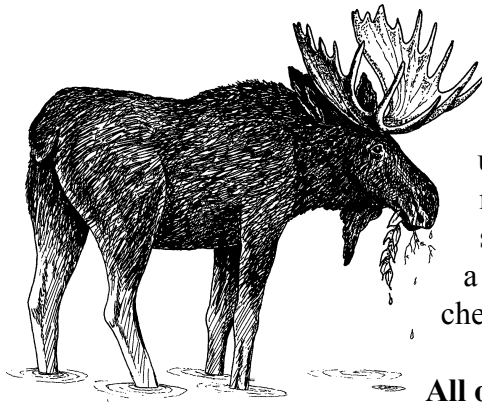


Mule Deer

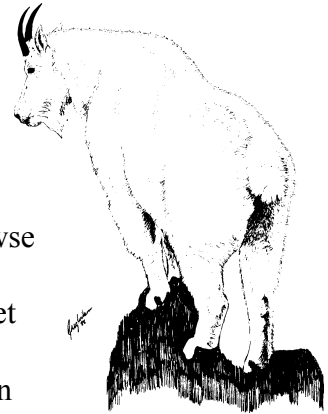
Deer, elk and moose are three of Utah's most familiar and well known wild animals. Deer, elk and moose all belong to a group of animals called **ungulates** (UNG-gyoo-lits). Bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn and bison are also all ungulate species that live in Utah.

Ungulates are animals that have hooves. Hooves are really the toenails of these animals and so ungulates walk on their toenails! The extra leg length they get from walking on their toes gives ungulates the ability to run especially fast. In fact, ungulates are some of the fastest mammals on earth.

Ungulates are mainly plant eaters, and graze or browse on grasses and shrubs. Plants are very hard to digest so ungulates have special four-part stomachs to help them get nutrition from what they eat. The first part of their stomach stores food. Later, when the ungulate can hide in a safe place, the food is passed back into their mouth to be chewed again.



Moose



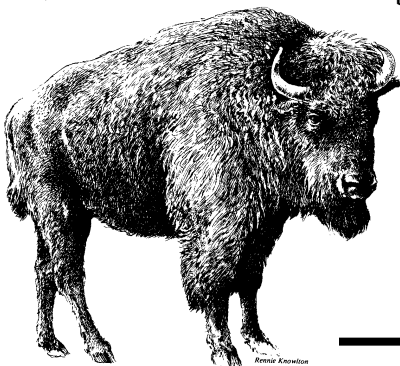
Mountain Goat

All of Utah's ungulates have either antlers or horns. Male deer, moose and elk have antlers during the fall. The rest, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn and bison, all have horns.

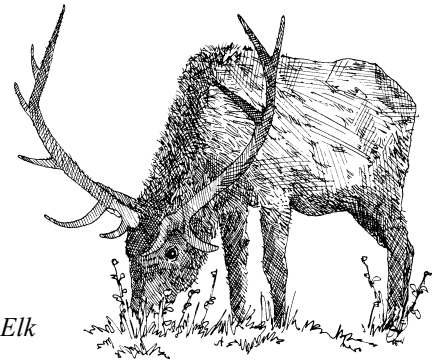
Antlers and horns are quite different. Antlers are made of bone, and are shed and regrown each year. Horns are made up of a bony core covered by a hard sheath made of keratin (the same stuff that fingernails are made of). Horns are never shed, except in pronghorn, which shed the sheath covering their horns each year.

Ungulates have played a big part in Utah's history. People who first lived in the southeastern part of the state carved pictures of bighorn sheep and deer onto rock surfaces. Bison, deer and elk were very important to Native American people who used these animals for many of their needs. Early settlers hunted these animals as well. Unfortunately, by the 1850s, not many ungulates were left in Utah. Wildlife managers have since helped ungulate populations by bringing in animals from other states and improving their habitat.

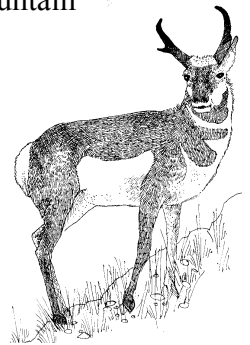
Ungulates are very popular animals. You can see them in many places in Utah, from the highest mountain peaks to the driest regions of the West Desert and rocky canyons of the Colorado Plateau.



Bison



Elk



Pronghorn

Turn the page to learn more about Utah's unbeatable ungulates!

Hooray for Hooves!

Utah's ungulates are large and impressive animals with amazing antlers or handsome horns. Which of Utah's wild ungulates you have seen? Deer, elk, or maybe a moose? Ungulates often see us before we see them. They are very wary of predators and flee at the first sign of danger.

To learn more, read on about Utah's unbelievable ungulates! Then choose your favorite wild ungulate and draw a picture of it within its habitat in the space to the right.



The **Rocky Mountain elk** is Utah's State Mammal. Elk live in Utah's high mountain forests. In the fall, bull elk grow large antlers that can span five feet. When the antlers grow, they are covered with a soft velvety skin that gives blood to the developing bone.



Desert bighorn sheep have large horns that curl around their heads like the letter "c". During the breeding season, rams charge each other and crash horns at a speed of about 30 miles per hour.

They have powerful necks and strong skulls to keep them from getting hurt.

The rough, steep canyons of Utah's Colorado Plateau are home to bighorn sheep. From rocky outcrops, they can spot danger up to five miles away!

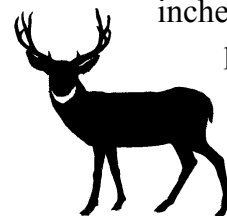


Moose are Utah's largest ungulate! They are bigger than a horse, and can stand seven feet tall and weigh 1,000 pounds. Although

moose are large, they are very shy and secretive. A cow moose protecting her calf though, can get very angry. They like to eat aquatic plants in lush mountain ponds. Sometimes moose even dive below the water to grab a bite.



Mountain goats live on the steepest rocky cliffs of Utah's highest mountain tops. They cling to narrow ledges with special suction-cup like pads on their hooves. Lambs, called kids, are able to climb with skill just hours after being born. During the harsh winter, the thick white fur of mountain goats keeps them warm. Because they live in such remote areas, mountain goats have few predators. Instead, avalanches are their biggest danger.



The **mule deer** gets its name from its large mule-like ears that can be as long as 11 inches. Mule deer use speed to avoid predators. They can run at speeds up to 35 miles per hour. Deer live in the oakbrush foothills and mountains of Utah. Sometimes they visit peoples' yards during harsh winters to look for food.



Many **bison** once roamed across Utah. The Native Americans that lived in Utah used the bison for many things such as food, clothing and tools. Because of this, the bison was considered very sacred. Settlement of the West though, nearly wiped out the bison by the year 1900. They have been brought back into Utah, and now there are two populations. One herd lives on Antelope Island and the other roams in the Henry Mountains.

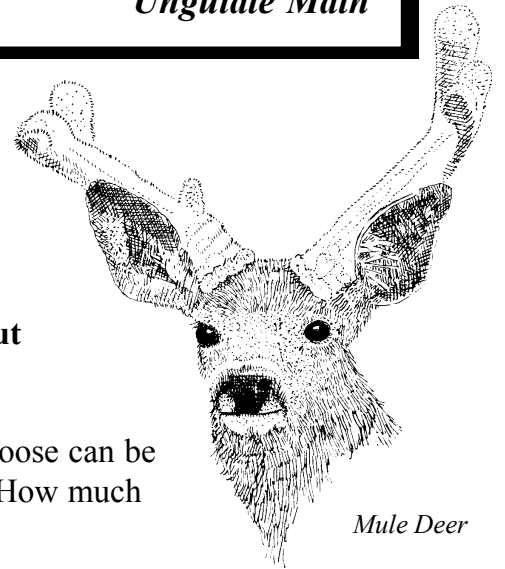


Pronghorn are the fastest land animals in North America. They can run at a top speed of over 50 miles per hour. Pronghorn range across Utah's West Desert and dry areas of eastern Utah.

They have very good eyesight and can see around themselves in a full circle. If danger is spotted, a pronghorn will signal others by flashing its white tail. The whole herd then speeds away beyond the sagebrush horizon.

Moose Multiplication, Deer Division, Elk Equations, Bighorn Sheep Subtraction, and Pronghorn Problem-solving!!!

Solve the ungulate problems below. Then see if you can make up some problems of your own using what you've learned about Utah's ungulates.



Mule Deer

- 1) Elk are the second largest member of the deer family. A bull moose can be as big as a horse, standing up to 5 feet (60 inches) at the shoulder. How much taller than you is an elk if you are about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet (42 inches) tall?

$$\frac{\text{Elk Height}}{\text{Your Height}} - \frac{\text{Your Height}}{\text{Your Height}} = \text{_____} \text{ (this is how much taller than you an elk is)}$$

**

- 2) Mule deer can run up to 35 miles per hour to escape predators. If you can run 5 miles per hour, how much faster than you can a deer run?

$$\frac{\text{Deer Speed}}{\text{Your Speed}} = \text{_____} \text{ (number of times faster)}$$

**

- 3) Moose are very large animals. A bull moose can weigh about 1,000 pounds. If you and your classmates each weigh about 50 pounds, how many students who weigh the same as you would equal the weight of a moose?

$$\frac{\text{Moose Weight}}{\text{Weight of a Student}} = \text{_____} \text{ (number of students weighing as much as a moose)}$$

**

- 4) Desert bighorn sheep rams can go without drinking water for 5 to 7 days. When they do drink, they can drink about 4 gallons at one time. How many cups of water is this if 1 gallon equals 16 cups?

$$4 \text{ gallons} \times \frac{16 \text{ cups}}{1 \text{ gallon}} = \text{_____} \text{ (number of cups of water equal to 4 gallons)}$$



Bighorn Sheep

Answers:

1) 18 inches or $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet; 2) 7 times; 3) 20 students; 4) 64 cups